

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus ~~displaying associated information corresponding to the occurrence of a present event~~, comprising:

an acquisition device configured to acquire ~~[[said]]~~ associated information corresponding to an occurrence of a present event using existing information corresponding to a past event;

an event occurrence detection device configured to detect information corresponding to the occurrence of said present event;

a search device configured to search said existing information corresponding to ~~[[a]]~~ the past event to retrieve related information having similarity to the information corresponding to the present event detected by the event occurrence detection device; and

a display control device configured to ~~control the display~~ ~~[[of]]~~ said associated information corresponding to the occurrence of ~~[[a]]~~ the present event that corresponds is related to the existing related information corresponding to said past event that is retrieved by said search device.

2. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said event occurrence detection device detects sending, receiving, or editing of an electronic mail as said present event.

3. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said acquisition device acquires a title and a URL of a Web page containing said important word as the associated information.

4. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said acquisition device acquires, in a predetermined timed relation, said associated information related to said important word selected by said selection device.

5. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising:

~~if an update condition is satisfied~~, update means for updating said database constructed by said database construction device when an update condition is satisfied.

6. (Original) The information processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said update condition can be set by a user.

7. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for an information processing apparatus for detecting a key word from a text file corresponding to an event that has taken place and displaying associated information corresponding to said key word, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

extracting attribute information from an existing text file;

~~analyzing said extracted attribute information;~~

~~selecting an important word~~ extracting existing keywords from among words contained in said existing text file;

~~acquiring said associated information related to said important word selected in the selecting step;~~

~~text file processing for computing weights for said important word~~ existing keywords based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file, and ~~obtaining~~ acquiring associated

information for an important keyword of the existing keywords [[word]] having a ~~higher~~ weight higher than a predetermined threshold;

constructing a database by ~~use of~~ associating the important word with at least one of said attribute information extracted in the ~~extraction~~ extracting step and said associated information acquired in the acquiring step;

detecting [[the]] an occurrence of said event;

detecting a ~~key word~~ an event keyword from said text file corresponding to said event detected in the event occurrence detecting step;

searching said database constructed in the database constructing step to retrieve [[for]] said associated information corresponding to said ~~key word~~ event keyword detected in the ~~key word~~ event keyword detecting step; and

controlling displaying of said associated information retrieved in the searching step.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~program storage~~ computer readable medium storing a computer-readable program that causes a computer to detect ~~for detecting~~ a key word from a text file corresponding to an event that has taken place and displaying associated information related to said key word, by performing ~~comprising~~ the steps of:

extracting attribute information from an existing text file;

~~analyzing said extended attribute information;~~

~~selecting an important word~~ extracting existing keywords from among words contained in said existing text file;

~~acquiring said associated information related to said important word selected in the selecting step;~~

~~text file processing for~~ computing weights of said ~~important word~~ existing keywords based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file, and ~~obtaining~~ acquiring associated

information for an important keyword of the existing keywords ~~[[word]]~~ having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold;

constructing a database by ~~use of~~ associating the important word with at least one of said attribute information extracted in the ~~extraction~~ extracting step and said associated information acquired in the acquiring step;

detecting ~~[[the]]~~ an occurrence of said event;

detecting ~~a key word~~ an event keyword from said text file corresponding to said event detected in the event occurrence detecting step;

searching said database constructed in the database constructing step to retrieve ~~[[for]]~~ said associated information corresponding to said ~~key word~~ event keyword detected in the ~~key word~~ event keyword detecting step; and

controlling displaying of said associated information retrieved in the searching step.

9. (Currently Amended) An information processing apparatus for displaying a ~~character~~ an animated agent on a display device and for displaying associated information related to a text file processed by a predetermined application program, comprising:

a processing detection device configured to detect, as an event, predetermined processing of said predetermined application program;

a key word detection device configured to detect ~~[[a]]~~ key ~~[[word]]~~ words from said text file processed by said predetermined application program corresponding to said event detected by said processing detection device;

~~text file processing~~ means for computing ~~the weight of~~ weights for said key ~~[[word]]~~ words based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file, and ~~obtaining~~ searching for said associated information for ~~[[a]]~~ an important key word of the keywords having a ~~higher~~ weight higher than a predetermined threshold; ~~a search device configured to search a~~

~~database for said associated information~~ by searching a ~~data base~~ database for a ~~previous~~ previously processed existing file corresponding to said important key word ~~detected by said~~ keyword detection device;

an input device configured to input a command;

a command processing device configured to execute, in response to said command inputted by said input device, processing on said associated information ~~retrieved by said~~ search device; and

a display control device configured to display, in response to said event detected by said processing detection device, said ~~character~~ animated agent onto said display device and changing a manner of displaying said ~~character~~ animated agent in response to said command inputted by said input device.

10. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said display control device also displays text information as a script of said ~~character~~ animated agent.

11. (Previously Presented): The information processing apparatus according to claim 10, further comprising an output device configured to output a voice signal corresponding to said text information displayed by said display control device.

12. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said command processing device displays, on said display device, said associated information retrieved by said search device in an object form with respect to at least one of movement, storage, and deletion, in response to a display command inputted by said input device.

13. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said command processing device stores said associated information in response to a storage command inputted by said input device and displays a list of the stored associated information onto said display device.

14. (Previously Presented) The information processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said associated information is a URL of a Web page and said command processing device starts a WWW browser so as to access said URL of said Web page as said associated information in response to an access command inputted by said input device.

15. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for an information processing apparatus for displaying ~~a character~~ an animated agent on a display device and for displaying associated information related to a text file processed by a predetermined application program, the method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

detecting, as an event, predetermined processing of said predetermined application program;

detecting ~~[[a]]~~ key ~~[[word]]~~ words from said text file processed by said predetermined application program corresponding to said event detected in the processing detecting step;

~~text file processing for~~ computing ~~the weight of~~ weights for said key ~~[[word]]~~ words based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file, and ~~obtaining~~ searching for said associated information for ~~[[a]]~~ an important key word of the keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold; ~~searching for said associated information~~ by searching for a previously processed existing file corresponding to said important key word ~~detected in the key word detecting step~~;

inputting a command;

executing, in response to said command inputted in the inputting step, processing on said associated information retrieved in the searching step; and

displaying, in response to said event detected in the processing of said detecting step, said ~~character~~ animated agent onto said display device and changing a manner of displaying said ~~character~~ animated agent in response to said command inputted in the inputting step.

16. (Currently Amended) A ~~program storage~~ computer readable medium storing a computer-readable program that causes a computer to display an animated agent for displaying a character on a display device and ~~for displaying to display~~ associated information related to a text file processed by a predetermined application program, ~~comprising by performing~~ the steps of:

detecting, as an event, predetermined processing of said predetermined application program;

detecting ~~[[a]]~~ key ~~[[word]]~~ words from said text file processed by said predetermined application program corresponding to said event detected in the processing detecting step;

~~text file processing for~~ computing ~~the weight of~~ weights for said key ~~[[word]]~~ words based on use of occurrence frequency in the text file, and ~~obtaining~~ searching for said associated information for ~~[[a]]~~ an important key word of the keywords having a weight higher than a predetermined threshold; ~~searching for said associated information~~ by searching a database for a previously processed existing file corresponding to said important key word ~~detected in the key word detecting step~~;

executing, in response to a command inputted, processing on said associated information retrieved in the searching step; and

displaying, in response to said event detected in the processing of said detecting step, said ~~character~~ animated agent onto said display device and changing a manner of displaying said ~~character~~ animated agent in response to said command inputted.

17. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a grouping device configured to group said existing information into a group of existing information based upon attribute information of said existing information,

wherein said acquisition device acquires the associated information related to said group of existing information made by said grouping device as said existing information,

said search device searches for said group of existing information as said existing information having similarity to information corresponding to the present event detected by the event occurrence detection device, and

the display control device controls displaying of said associated information related to said group of existing information as said existing information retrieved by said search device.

18. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to Claim 17, further comprising:

a weight calculation device configured to calculate the weight of key words contained in each said group of existing information,

a selection device configured to select an important word among said key words based upon said weight of key words,

wherein said acquisition device acquires said associated information related to said group of existing information using said important word selected by said selection device.



19. (Currently Amended) The information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said existing information corresponding to said past event is an existing text file and said information corresponding to said present event detected by the event occurrence detection device is a text file, the information processing apparatus further comprising[[,]]:

a selection device for selecting an important word from among words contained in said existing text file,

wherein the acquisition device acquires said associated information by using said important word selected by said selection device as said existing information.

20. (Previously Presented) An information processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

an extraction device configured to extract attribute information from the existing information; and

a database construction device configured to construct a database by use of at least one of said attribute information extracted by said extraction device and said associated information acquired by said acquisition device.